(c) if so, whether Government proposed to place Bihar in special category for financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Problems faced by Bihar such as low per capita income, high rate of population growth, low level of literacy, inadequate infrastructural development, disparity amongst different segments of population as well as regions in the State etc. are not unique to the State.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration. However, in order to supplement the socio-economic development efforts of the State Government, a special plan for Bihar has been approved in principle by the High Level Committee on the Development and Reforms Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) in its meeting held on 28.08.2002. The plan includes schemes for improvement in availability of electricity in Bihar by strengthening the sub-transmission system, improving rural connectivity, harnessing of ground water resources, water shed development, horticulture, dairy development etc.

Performance of LIC

2719. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Life Insurance Corporation has lost its ground to private insurance companies after their entry about one and half years ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has registered a growth of 16.29% in Policies, 39.04% in Sum Assured and 64.98% in First Premium Income during 2000-2001. It again registered an impressive growth of 16.24% in Policies, 54.34% in Sum Assured and 137.03% in First Premium Income during 2001-2002.

(b) Does not arise.